

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNSC, TU, GR

SUBJ: GREEK/TURKISH DISPUTE IN THE SECURITY COUNCIL

1. THERE IS NOTABLE LACK OF DESIRE ON PART OF SC MEMBERS TO JUMP INTO THE AEGEAN DISPUTE. NO ONE VOLUNTEERED TO SPEAK AT MEETING SCHEDULED ORIGINALLY FOR TOMORROW AUGUST 17, AND I SUGGESTED TO SC PRESIDENT ABE (JAPAN) THAT POSITIONS OF GREEKS AND TURKS WERE SO FAR APART AFTER TODAY'S BROAD CIRCULATION BY TURKS OF THEIR SUGGESTED LANGUAGE THAT IT WAS BETTER TO LET THE SITUATION COOK FOR A WHILE AND LET THE TWO SIDES REFLECT. ABE AGREED AND HAS SCHEDULED NO MEETING. MEANWHILE, GREEKS ARE APPROACHING COUNCIL MEMBERS TO URGE SUPPORT OF "EUROPEAN" DRAFT, AND TURKS ARE HANGING TOUGH.

2. ON INITIATIVE OF ITALIAN PERM REP VINCI, WE HAD LATE AFTERNOON MEETING OF BRITISH, FRENCH, ITALIANS AND US. VINCI AND RICHARD (UK) STRESSED INSISTENCE WITH WHICH TURKS MADE POINT THEY DO NOT REPEAT NOT WANT A RESOLUTION I CHIMED IN THAT THIS WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING, AND MADE POINT AGAIN TO THIS GROUP THAT GREEKS AND TURKS ARE SO FAR APART AT THE MOMENT THAT IT MAY REQUIRE SOME TIME TO FIND A WAY TO RECONCILE THEIR VIEWS.

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3. FRENCH REP LECOMPT CONTINUES UNDISGUISEDLY

PRO GREEK IN APPROACH TO ISSUE AND AT ONE POINT ASKED FOR GROUP'S ESTIMATE ON COUNCIL'S SUPPORT FOR "EUROPEAN" DRAFT. I SUGGESTED QUESTION WAS PREMATURE IN VIEW OF DIFFERENCES BETWEEN GREEKS AND TURKS. RICHARD SPOKE UP FIRMLY TO EXPRESS CONVICTION THAT MANY IN SECURITY COUNCIL WOULD NOT BE PREPARED TO VOT FOR A RESOLUTION WHICH IT WAS CLEAR THAT TURKS COULD NOT ACCEPT. HE SAID UK WOULD NOT VOTE FOR "EUROPEAN" DRAFT. (HE TOLD ME PRIVATELY THAT HE THOUGHT FRENCH HAD GONE TOO FAR AND TOO FAST AS PRINCIPAL FORCE IN EXISTING DRAFT; RICHARD HIMSELF WAS ABSENT LAST WEEK.)

4. HOWEVER, RICHARD STATED HE, AS A FORMER POLITICIAN, UNDERSTANDS GREEK NEED FOR RESOLUTION AND IS HIMSELF PERSUADED THAT IN THE END THERE SHOULD BE A RESOLUTION. HE IS QUITE WILLING TO GO SLOW ON IT AND GIVE TIME TO BRING THE TWO SIDES CLOSER TOGETHER. HE SUGGESTED BRITISH TRY THEIR HAND AT REDRAFTING "EUOPREAN" VERSION SO AS TO WORK IN SOME OF TURKS' POINTS. HE MET WITH BITSIOS EARLIER THIS AFTERNOON AND RECEIVED IMPRESSION GREEKS READY TO MAKE SOME CONCESSIONS.

5. DURING EARLIER CONVERSATION WITH SC PRESIDENT, LATTER BROUGHT UP MATTER OF EVENTUAL CONSENSUS STATEMENT. I MENTIONED THIS TO GROUP AS A POSSIBLE OUTCOME IN LIEU OF RESOLUTION, AND ALSO SAID THAT SOME MEMBERS HAD SPOKEN OF PREFERENCE FOR UK-ICELANDIC SOLUTION. TIME WILL TELL WHETHER FURTHER DELAY CAN PUSH THINGS IN THAT DIRECTION.

6. WE ARE HAVING FOUR-POWER MEETING AT BRITISH MISSION 11:00 AM AUGUST 17 FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AND DRAFTING EFFORT.
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